

**SUBMISSION TO THE**  
**NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD**  
**FOR**

**Information:**

**Decision: X**

**Issue: Request for approval of Non-Quota Limitations for an exploratory Greenland halibut (turbot) fishery in Sam Fiord and Scott Inlet near Clyde River**

**Background:** In its 2011 decisions and recommendations on allocations for Commercial Marine Fisheries, the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB) set aside 100 t of turbot for inshore development in NAFO Division 0A, to be sub-allocated by the Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board (QWB). The allocation is for exploratory purpose and can only be fished within the Nunavut Settlement Area.

The Nangmoutaq Hunters and Trappers Organization (HTO) will be applying to the QWB to receive some of the 100 t inshore allocation. The Nangmoutaq HTO has participated in three winter longline turbot fishing projects in the Clyde River area, in 2003, 2006 and 2008 respectively. The 2006 project was funded by the NWMB's Nunavut Wildlife Studies Fund. The Nangmoutaq HTO has been working with the Government of Nunavut (GN) to organize another project for 2011.

In February 2011, Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) received an Emerging Fisheries Application that the GN and the HTO had worked together to complete. The HTO is the project proponent and GN is supportive of this project by providing project management support. To oversee the project in the field, and to collect required data, a fisheries technician will be retained. This person will be responsible for the collection of project data from the fish harvesters on a daily basis. Data requirements will include all required information on harvesting location (site, depth), fishing activity (number of hooks, soak time) and results (turbot harvest – number of fish, length and weight), bycatch and Catch per Unit Effort.

Past projects have shown that quantities of turbot can be harvested from several locations in the Scott Inlet and Sam Fiord area (see map). The objectives of the 2011 project are to further investigate the size of the turbot resource, and to explore the viability of a commercial winter fishery for local harvesters. A final project report will be prepared by the GN on the project results.

DFO is requesting that the NWMB approve the following Non-Quota Limitations (NQLs) for exploratory turbot fisheries within the Nunavut Settlement Area (NSA) in the Clyde River area:

1. The waterbody to be fished is Sam Fiord and Scott Inlet (area bounded by four coordinates: 71°122' N, 71°00' W; 71°03'N, 71°29' W; 71°00N, 69°39 W; and 70°42'N, 70°38'W).
2. Gear to be used is longlines fitted with circle hooks in the size range of #12s through to #15s;
3. Bycatch such as skates, sharks, eelpout and wolffish, where alive, shall be released at the site of capture if there is a reasonable expectation of survival.
4. Every person who incidentally catches a Northern Wolffish or Spotted Wolffish forthwith returns it to the place from which it was taken, and where alive, in a manner that causes it the least harm.

In addition, DFO is requesting that the NWMB approve the following NQL for a 2011 exploratory turbot fishery within the NSA in the Clyde River area:

1. The fishing period is March 1 to June 30, 2011.

**Consultations:** Kevin Hedges, DFO Science; Chris Lewis, DFO Resource Management; Angela Young, Government of Nunavut

**Recommendations:**

1. That the NWMB approve the four NQLs set out above for exploratory turbot fisheries within the NSA in the Clyde River area, as per NLCA s.5.6.48.
2. That the NWMB approve the NQL set out above for a 2011 exploratory turbot fishery in the Clyde River area, as per NLCA s.5.6.48.

**Prepared by:** Charlotte Sharkey, DFO – Iqaluit

**Date:** February 28, 2011



Map 1. Proposed area for Clyde River exploratory Greenland Halibut (turbot) fishery in Sam Fiord and Scott Inlet.